



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Steve Eberly V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

March 13, 2019 1:00 pm
Merom Conference Center
8555 Phillip Street, Merom, IN 47861

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County – Randy Nowaskie (proxy)
Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County – Keith Poole (proxy)
Fountain County – Robert Shepherd
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County – Rama Sobhami
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Parke County – Phil Cox (alt)
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County – John Gettinger
Tippecanoe Co. – Vanessa Rainwater (alt)
Vermillion County – Les Zimmerman (alt)

Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wabash County – Mike Beauchamp
Warren County – Steve Eberly
Wells County – Douglas Sundling
DNR – Dale Brier

Guests:

Casey Calvert – Posey County
Eric Heidenreich – Gibson County
Allen Hurst – DNR
Ginger

Counties not represented:

Jay County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Steve Eberly called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced himself or herself. Dale Brier announced two proxies for the meeting. Sandy Voglewede gave her proxy to Randy Nowaskie for Adams County and Arin Shaver gave her proxy to Keith Poole for Cass County. Brier also asked that the commission take a group photo after the meeting due to having all counties with the exception of Jay present. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Review and Approval of July 11, 2018 Minutes

Ron Zartman motioned to approve the minutes as written and Dave Hacker seconded. Motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

John Gettinger offered to give a tour of the building following the conclusion of the meeting.

Finance Report

Dale Brier handed out the current finance report (see attached). The current balance in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$381,403. Brier reminded the commission

that \$300,000 of that would be encumbered for grants, which at some point will be taken out of the balance. Doug Sundling asked about royalty revenue in the past few months, the question transitioned into the treasurer report with Bob Shepard.

Treasurer Report

Shepard handed out the treasurer report and announced that the report is based on the DNR finance report. Answering Sundlings' question, Shepard announced the royalties were down roughly \$1,000 compared to last year despite having a good start earlier in the year. Because of this, the estimated yearly revenue will be slightly less than the predicted \$135,000. Gettinger motioned to accept the finance reports as written and George Mears seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Membership – Kara Kish had no direct report but noted the goal of the membership committee was to work on including an educational component to the meetings, to work on the bi-annual retreat, and to increase attendance. Brier commented the attendance is doing great. Concerning an educational presentation, Eberly said he would try to reach out to the director of the OSWR program, which deals with water runoff at Big Pine Creek.

Jay County's attendance was brought up. Brier noted that Jay County has not been to a meeting since 2007 but they do elect a representative so they will continue to count towards the quorum despite never attending. It is hard to fault them when they have almost none of the Wabash River in their county. Possible solutions were discussed. Ultimately, Sundling said that he would reach out to Jay County as he works with them on the Upper Wabash Commission.

River Road – Eberly updated the commission on the River Road project. After meeting with Brier, Scott Davis, the DNR webmaster, and Noelle Szyldk in Tourism, it was decided that hosting the river road content would be done in a similar manner to the tourism website. There will be an upfront cost and an ongoing maintenance cost, none of which is known yet. Eberly said the timeline details are waiting on Indiana Office of Technologies blessing before the process can further proceed and he could not give a definitive timeline. The commission was informed that it would be the counties responsibility to provide the content and to keep it updated. Brier suggested a good test of the commissions' ability to do this would be to update their current info they initially created approximately three years ago.

News and Media – Sobhani had no report. Kish inquired if the previous grant recipients were announced to which Brier responded the DNR put out a media release. Phil Cox wondered about social media, would it be good for the commission to have a Facebook page. Brier answered that would be extremely ill advised for many reasons. He added that if the commission had a story they wanted to share on social media that the division of Outdoor Rec could host it on their Facebook page or on the main DNR Facebook page.

Old Business

River Curriculum – Eberly had no report. Gettinger noted that there use to be an educational program and that he would bring in documents about said program.

Previous Funding Requests

Pedal, Paddle, and Play, the Bluffton Health and Wellness Series, and SOL Fest were the three previous funding requests each requesting \$1,000. With the events having been fully presented at the last meeting, Kish motioned to accept the three funding requests, Sobhani seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

New Funding Requests

Eberly asked if we should be promoting the local grants more. The Commission is fine with the way it is currently done.

Wonderful Wabash Event – Posey County

Ralph Weinzapfel presented this event on behalf of the Posey County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is a four-hour paddle involving over 75 canoes, which will include many educational stops. The \$1000 funding request will go towards insurance, food, and transportation for the event. The event will occur August 10.

Clean Out the Banks – Wabash County

Beauchamp presented the Wabash River clean up to the commission on behalf of Wabash Rivers Defenders, Inc. The river cleanup has been going on for many years and had over 150 volunteers last year. It will occur on July 27. Beauchamp requested \$1,000 that will go towards insurance, t-shirts, food, and awards for the volunteers.

De-trash the Wabash – Tippecanoe County

Rainwater presented this event on behalf of Banks of the Wabash, Inc. to the commission. Tippecanoe's river cleanup happens twice a year and this funding request would fund the upcoming spring-cleaning happening April 27. This cleanup has over 100 volunteers and the request for \$1000 will go towards trash bags, food, t-shirts, and transportation for the volunteers.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Eberly began to call on each member and if they would like to announce or discuss anything with the commission.

Beauchamp re-publicized the river clean up event on August 10. Next, he discussed a 319 grant going towards testing tributaries for a variety of compounds. The data collected will lead to a remediation plan that hopefully will lead into a grant request to fix any concerns.

Zimmerman noted that the commission deals a lot with tourism and publicizing the river and on education. He asked about agricultural pollution and the concerns that brings to the river and what the commission does to combat these concerns. Brier mentioned the WRHCC is not the outlet to deal with the environmental side of the river.

Zartman publicized again the upcoming events occurring in Allen County. The first is Sol Fest May 4 & 5 as well as Peddle, Paddle, Play happening July 20.

Rainwater on behalf of Tippecanoe County announced April 12 is the big water sampling blitz event and provided some information on it. De-trash the Wabash is on April 27. Lastly, she discussed Riverfest on July 13, which is likely Tippecanoe's biggest event and has many activities.

Hacker promoted and gave information for Splash on the Wabash happening July 6.

Kish announced Vigo County commissioners officially named county owned property along the river Bicentennial Park. Next, she reported officials from INDOT and utility companies came to Vigo County that morning to discuss the \$8 million pedestrian bridge between Terre Haute and West Terre Haute. Lastly, Kish happily reported that the Wabash Valley Crew are doing great works with recruitment and getting out to competitions.

Sundling began stating he hopes to have a tour ready in September to show the commission what they are doing around the river. In context of an earlier discussion, Sundling gave some information on the Upper Wabash Basin Committee and what it is they do. Last year with a LARE grant they did a functional assessment of the eastern third of the river which found Indiana is getting more rain fall which is increasing bank erosion. The following steps would be to apply for a LARE grant would be to design a project and lastly apply again for a LARE grant to execute the design.

Mears asked the commission what is they would like to do in Carroll County when he hosts it there in July and discussed his ideas of what he would like to do.

Cox began reporting that the 2019 Indiana Visitors Guide inside cover highlights all there is to do in Parke County as well as displaying a photograph of the Montezuma Railroad Bridge walking trail. Lastly, Cox reported that Penny Cox and her husband were in an auto accident in Washington DC and are currently recovering.

Eberly began by discussing the Eli Lily \$40 million South Western Indiana multi-county initiative that aimed on enhancing sense of community, regionalism, and collecting data. Purdue is working on creating thin-filmed sensors with the goal to measure environmental factors with these small sensors that could be placed on the underside of kayaks or canoes. Next, Eberly discussed the multi-county venture Wabash Heartland Initiation Network (WHIN). Lastly, Eberly touched on river county happenings such as upgrading broadband to areas in need.

Gettenger commented on a potential jail going along the river in Terre Haute but was glad to report that due to community pushback it never came to be. He then lamented the cancelation of the 8th grade educational trip on the river due to river depth.

The last county representative wanting to present was Zimmerman who discussed an ongoing meeting with a Shortline railroad representative hoping to be connected back into the CSX line.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Brier finished the round table with some quick housekeeping notes including handing out travel vouchers, reminding the group to gather for a quick photo, and for those interested Gettinger would continue his tour of the building after the meeting.

Adjournment

Eberly called the meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm.
Fountain County
Beef House Oak Room

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY19 as of

2/28/2019

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 77,278.87
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 7,161.48	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 516.30	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 214.85	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 802.07	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 1,382.04	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 10.63	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 61.49	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 5.37	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 1.40	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 45.31	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 44.30	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 206.90	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 88.50	
546002	Off-Office Supplies	\$ 48.98	
592022	AdmOp-Late Payment Interest	\$ 1.01	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 4,316.80	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 195.00	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 443.02	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ 3.00	
599036	AdmOp-PostageMeter/Potage	\$ 372.47	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 6,600.00	

Total FY19 Expense To Date: \$ 22,520.92

Fund Balance:		
	7/1/2018	326,645
FY19 revenues		77,279
FY19 Expenses		22,521
balance as of 2/28/2019		381,403

DNR payroll	\$ 10,452.14
travel costs	\$ 4,958.83
sponsorships	\$ 6,600.00
operating	\$ 509.95
Total	\$ 22,520.92